

**City of Alton City Commission  
Regular Meeting 7:30 pm  
January 25, 2022 Minutes**

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**Members Present**

Mayor Salvador Vela  
Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr.  
Commissioner Emilio Cantu Jr.  
Commissioner Richard Arevalo  
Commissioner Ricardo Garza

**City Staff Present**

Jeff Underwood  
Ricardo Gonzalez  
Baudelia Rojas  
Janie Flores  
Mauro Sandoval  
Janie Gaytan  
John Salinas  
Rosie Tello  
Cristina Garcia  
Samm Mercado  
Lt. George Ibarra

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCE A QUORUM IS PRESENT**

With a quorum of the Alton City Commission present, Mayor Salvador Vela called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm.

**II. CERTIFICATION OF POSTING**

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments.

**IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approve the minutes of the City Commission meeting of January 11, 2022.
2. Discuss and consider approving request by Yessica Sanchez, owner, is requesting a rezone at 1309 S. Shary Blvd, from "R-1" Single Family Residential-Large Lot District to "C-2" General Commercial District.
3. Discuss and consider approving request by Juan Muniz, owner, is requesting a rezone at 1503 W. Saint Francis Ave., from "C-1" Neighborhood Commercial District to "MF-1" Multi-Family Low Density District.
4. Discuss and consider approving request by MAS Engineering, representing Gatlin Land and Cattle LLC, owner, is requesting preliminary plat approval of the proposed Bryan Village Subdivision.

Motion to approve consent agendas was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Richard Arevalo. Motion carried 5-0.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Discuss and consider approval of the Work Plan and Budget for Fiscal Year 35 (2022) for the Urban County Program.**

Cristina Garcia, Planning Director, stated that the approximate budget amount for this year for upcoming project is \$269,965.00 which includes health services and street improvements for the area of Magnolia Pointe Subdivision. This work plan has been approved by the County. Staff recommends approval. Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Garza. Motion carried 5-0.

**2. Discuss and consider the approval of the renewal of Memorandum of Understanding with Red Cross to assist the City of Alton during a disaster event.**

Jeff Underwood, City Manager, stated that this was a yearly renewal in case of a hurricane or fire and services are needed from the Red Cross for evacuation or caring for people. This MOU would allow for the City to call on them. Staff recommends approval. Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Garza. Motion carried 5-0.

**3. Discuss and consider the approval of the fiscal year 2022-2024 Interlocal Agreement between the Rio Grande Valley Communications District and the City of Alton Police Department.**

Jeff Underwood, City Manager, stated that this agreement allows for the City to have 911 operations and receive 911 calls for the next couple of years. Staff recommends approval. Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Garza. Motion carried 5-0.

**4. Discuss and consider approval of Resolution 2022-07, related to Homeland Security Grants Division Statewide Emergency Radio Infrastructure Project for FY 2023.**

Jeff Underwood, City Manager, stated that Police Chief Flores is applying for a grant to upgrade radio equipment that ties back to the previous item of 911 services calls. Staff recommends approval. Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Garza. Motion carried 5-0.

**5. Discuss and consider approval of Resolution 2022-08, related to the Governor Homeland Security Division Local Border Security Grant Program.**

George Ibarra, APD Lieutenant, stated that this grant would enhance local law enforcement patrol to facilitate corrective actions towards crime activity such as human trafficking, drug smuggling and money laundering. This grant would also help disrupt and deter operations of gangs and cartel criminal organizations. Staff recommends approval. Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Richard Arevalo. Motion carried 5-0.



**6. Discuss and consider approval of Resolution 2022-09, related to the Office of the Governor FY23 Victim Assistance General Victim Assistance Direct Service Program.**

George Ibarra, APD Lieutenant, stated that this is a continuation grant that allows for the department to keep the Criminal Victim's Liaison who has done a wonderful job in the few months with the City. This grant is being presented again because the grant number has changed. Staff recommends approval. Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Richard Arevalo. Motion carried 5-0.

**7. Discuss and consider approval of Interlocal Agreement between the County of Hidalgo and the City of Alton for Rural Fire Service for 2022-2025.**

John Salinas, Fire Chief, stated that he had to put up a fight to maintain the same area of coverage with a loss of a small area from 3 Mile Line Rd north to 5 Mile Line from Abram Rd west to Giles Rd. Staff recommends approval. Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Richard Arevalo. Motion carried 5-0.

**8. Discuss and consider declaring decommissioned and damaged fire equipment as surplus; authorizing the donation of surplus equipment to "Proteccion Civil El Carmen, N.L.**

John Salinas, Fire Chief, stated that he was approached in November by Hector Garza Gonzalez of Proteccion Civil requesting any donations of decommissioned equipment. An inventory of equipment was done and the damaged or burned equipment that was decommissioned was put on a list. The State will not allow the use of this equipment anymore. Staff recommends approval of the donation listed, some of which were obtained through Urban County; pending disposition by Urban County. Staff will make Urban County aware of the donation as well. Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Richard Arevalo. Motion carried 5-0.

**9. Discuss and consider approval of agreement for use of Alton Recreation Center for a Community Fitness and Wellness Program.**

Samm Mercado, Community Services Director, stated that Nuestra Clinica Del Valle is requesting the use of the Alton Recreation Center three days a week. They are requesting the use of the center on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for a community fitness program which will be about an hour and a half from 8:30 am to 10:00 am. This organization will utilize the gym and part of the kitchen to teach a class. Registration will be handled by Nuestra Clinica Del Valle. Staff recommends approval. Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Richard Arevalo. Motion carried 5-0.

**10. Discuss and consider approving the Investment Report of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021, according to the Public Funds Investment Act.**

Jeff Underwood, City Manager, stated that as required by law, every quarter this report is brought before the Commission. This 4<sup>th</sup> quarter report is for the end of

calendar year 2021 and all the listed funds are in good standings. The general fund is expected to look even better in the next report due to property taxes coming in. Staff is pleased with the investments that have been made so far. Staff recommends approval. Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Garza. Motion carried 5-0.

**11. Discuss and consider accepting the resignation of Associate Municipal Judge.**

Jeff Underwood, City Manager, stated that Judge Eric Flores has taken a position that has taken him out of private practice which gave him the flexibility to be an Associate Judge for Alton so he is respectfully resigning. Staff asks for acceptance of the letter of resignation. Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Richard Arevalo. Motion carried 5-0.

**12. Discuss and consider authorizing staff to solicit bids for contract labor for general services.**

Jeff Underwood, City Manager, stated that for the past six years or so the City has contracted for general services and now the contract is up. This service is for a company or someone that will help the City with small projects that are hard to go out and seeks bids for because of the project size. Staff is asking for authorization to solicit bids for this contract labor for general services. Staff recommends approval. Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Richard Arevalo. Motion carried 5-0.

**13. Discuss and consider approving the extension of agreement for consulting services between City of Alton and Five Dogs Consulting.**

Jeff Underwood, City Manager, stated that former City Manager Jorge Arcaute, Five Dogs Consulting assist the City with leadership and management consulting. Staff would like to extend the agreement to continue with his consulting services. Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Garza. Motion carried 5-0.

**14. Updated Mayoral Declaration of Local State of Disaster due to public health emergency.**

Jeff Underwood, City Manager stated that not much has changed regarding the emergency and again staff is asking for an update on dates for the declaration. Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Garza. Motion carried 5-0.

**VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to Government Code Section 551.071 & 551.072**

- a) Pending and/or potential litigation
- b) Personnel
- c) Real Estate

**VII. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

- a) Pending and/or potential litigation
- b) Personnel



c) Real Estate

**VIII. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Jeff Underwood, City Manager, stated that a copy of the project report update was provided and also reported that as per TXDOT, west FM 676 to La Homa Road is scheduled to be under construction in October of this year which will be a two year project. The construction of east FM 676 to Ware Road is expected to begin in 2025 and looks to be a three year project. Mr. Underwood state that with the upcoming road construction, the Alton Christmas Parade route will need to change.

Also, Mr. Underwood commented that staff worked hard at putting together a 2021 annual report and encouraged the Commission to take some time to look at it.


**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Richard Arevalo. Motion carried 5-0.

**CITY OF ALTON**

  
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**Salvador Vela, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

  
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**Baudelia Rojas CPM, TRMC|CMC**  
**City Secretary**



**APPROVED BY CITY COMMISSION, FEBRUARY 8, 2022**